## Making Efficient and Renewable Energy Systems Affordable

"If it wasn't for the cost, I'd love to have an energy efficient home and be able to install renewable energy systems on my property." If that sounds like you, read on! Many grants, incentives, tax credits and rebates make energy efficiency and green power more affordable than you might think!





## To get started, think "Energy Conservation First!"

Allegheny Power's Watt Watchers program offers a free walk-through Check Up home energy audit by a certified professional auditor. After your audit, you will receive a prioritized checklist of actions to make your home more energy efficient and a kit of energy saving supplies worth \$40! For more detailed information about how and where air or heat is moving in and out of your home, choose a Comprehensive Audit for only \$140 (normally up to \$500). This audit adds a blower door test and thermal imaging. To schedule either audit, call 1-877-928-8928. For do-it-yourselfers, Watt Watchers provides an on-line home analyzer and rewards you with four compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs). Do you live on a farm? The Maryland Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program offers farm energy audits and cash rebates for energy saving projects for qualified agricultural producers. For more information, read this Fact Sheet.



## Next, implement energy saving retrofits.

Principal residence retrofits completed in 2010 that improve a home's building envelop, or include efficient heating/cooling equipment installations, are eligible for a federal tax credit of 30% of installed costs up to \$1,500. Envelope upgrades include insulation upgrades, air and duct sealing, window replacement, or new Energy Star roofing. Equipment upgrades include furnaces or boilers, air conditioners or heat pumps, ground or geothermal heat pumps, biomass stoves, fans, and water heaters. If you are in the market for new energy efficient appliances, Watt Watchers also provides up to \$750 in rebates for energy efficient appliances and appliance recycling.



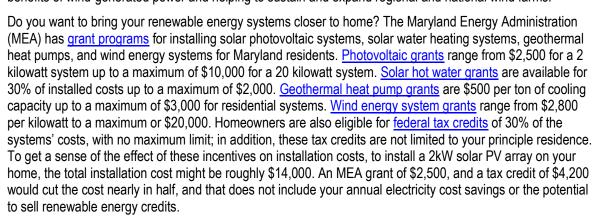
CleanSteps



## Still motivated? Try greening your power.

A simple way to use renewable energy is to sign up with either Clean Currents or Washington Gas Energy Services to purchase electricity bundled with wind energy credits. Allegheny Power will still deliver the electricity to your home and bill you for it, but for similar fixed, rates, you are also purchasing the environmental benefits of wind-generated power and helping to sustain and expand regional and national wind farms.







Maybe you'll be hanging on to your oil furnace for a while. You might want to consider switching to a Bio-Heating Oil (at least 5% biodiesel). Bioheat is a domestically produced, renewable fuel that can be manufactured from vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled restaurant greases. Bioheat is safe and biodegradable, and its use significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and serious toxic air pollutants. The Maryland Bio-Heating Oil Tax Credit provides for a \$0.03/gallon tax credit up to \$500 for Bio-Heating Oil purchased for space and water heating. The bio-heating oil distributor for Frederick County is LS Fuel Co. (301.834.9701).

For assistance making energy efficiency and renewable energy decisions, contact Lisa Orr, Sustainability Program Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Sustainability, at LOrr@FrederickCountyMD.gov or ext. 1-6864.